



UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
United States Patent and Trademark Office
Address: COMMISSIONER OF PATENTS AND TRADEMARKS
Washington, D.C. 20231
www.uspto.gov

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
-----------------	-------------	----------------------	---------------------	------------------

09/701,349

03/28/2002

Jan Dessein

KSN0007

8754

7590

04/23/2003

Eric J Groen
Baker & Daniels
Suite 250
205 West Jefferson Boulevard
South Bend, IN 46601

EXAMINER

LEON, EDWIN A

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

2833

DATE MAILED: 04/23/2003

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/701,349

Applicant(s)

DESSEIN ET AL.

Examiner

Edwin A. León

Art Unit

2833

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 10 February 2003.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-14 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-14 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 10 February 2003 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
- Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- 11) ☐ The proposed drawing correction filed on _____ is: a) ☐ approved b) ☐ disapproved by the Examiner.
- If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.
- 12) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

- 13) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☒ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 14) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application).
- a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
- 15) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) _____
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). _____
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: _____

DETAILED ACTION

Response to Amendment

1. Applicant's amendment filed February 10, 2003 in which the Specification, the Drawings and Claim 1 have been amended, has been placed of record in the file as Paper No. 13.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

2. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

3. Claims 1-6 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Applicant's admitted prior art in view of Lenaerts et al. (U.S. Patent No. 3,521,221). With regard to Claims 1, 3 and 6, Applicant's admitted prior art discloses a connector (1) for RF coaxial lines (3) comprising two connector halves for establishing contact with an outer conductor of the RF coaxial line (3) by means of an insulation displacement connection with at least one cutting edge (2) arranged on each connector half, the cutting edges (2) being arranged opposite each other in the longitudinal axial direction

Art Unit: 2833

of the outer conductor (8), wherein two connector halves are arranged on the RF line (3). See Figs. 1-2.

Applicant's admitted prior art doesn't show the cutting edges being arranged opposite each other in staggered and parallel offset manner and, after penetration of an outer insulation of the RF coaxial line, establish a cold- welding type connection with the outer conductor on an end face and at least one adjacent side face thereof, and the cutting edges, in case of a change in distance of their end faces with respect to each other, slide on the outer conductor without a gap being formed between the outer conductor and the cutting edges, wherein the connector has a plurality of pairs of cutting edges which are arranged symmetrically with respect to a plane extending along the longitudinal axial direction of the outer conductor and the cutting edge pairs overlapping each other.

Lenarts et al. discloses a connector (10) showing the concept of having cutting edges (38,40) being arranged opposite each other in staggered and parallel offset manner and the cutting edges (38,40) overlapping each other. See Figs. 1-2, and 6-7.

Thus, it would have been obvious to one with ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify the connector of the Applicant's admitted prior art by having cutting edges being arranged opposite each other in staggered manner and at least one adjacent side face thereof, and cutting edges overlapping each other as taught in Scholtholt to enable the connector to accept wider cables without risking damages to the insulation displacement connection.

Art Unit: 2833

With regard to Claim 2, Applicant's admitted prior art discloses the connector (1) having a plurality of pairs of cutting edges (2) arranged symmetrically with respect to a plane extending perpendicularly to the longitudinal axial direction of the outer conductor. See Figs. 1-2.

With regard to Claim 4, Applicant's admitted prior art discloses a base plate (4) formed on its longitudinal side with lugs (5) extending substantially perpendicularly thereto, with one cutting edge (2) pair each being arranged substantially perpendicularly thereto and extending away therefrom towards the outer conductor. See Figs. 1-2.

With regard to Claim 5, Applicant's admitted prior art discloses at least two lugs (5) each on both longitudinal sides of the base plate (4), the lugs (5) having cutting edge (2) pairs with different axial distances of the cutting edges (2). See Figs. 1-2.

4. Claims 7-14 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Applicant's admitted prior art in view of Scholtholt (European Patent No. 0 121 224).

With regard to Claim 7, Applicant's admitted prior art an electrical contact (1) for making connection to a coaxial cable (3) outer conductor, where the coaxial cable (3) is comprised of an inner signal conductor, an inner core surrounding the signal conductor, conductive shielding surrounding the inner core and outer insulation surrounding the inner core, the contact (1) comprising at least one upstanding side edge portion (5) formed by first and second portions (2), the first and second portions (2) have side faces (side of 2) generally aligned along a vertical axis. See Figs. 1-2.

Art Unit: 2833

Applicant's admitted prior art doesn't show end faces which are axially staggered in an axial direction of the cable, the side faces being profiled for cutting through the outer insulation and the end faces trapping the conductive shielding therebetween.

Scholtholt discloses an electrical contact (1) having end faces (3,4) which are axially staggered in an axial direction of a cable (14), side faces (6,7) being profiled for cutting through the outer insulation (15) and the end faces (3,4) trapping the conductive shielding (16) therebetween. See Figs. 1-2, and 6-7.

Thus, it would have been obvious to one with ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify the contact of the Applicant's admitted prior art by including end faces which are axially staggered in an axial direction of the cable, the side faces being profiled for cutting through the outer insulation and the end faces trapping the conductive shielding therebetween as taught in Scholtholt to enable the contact to accept wider cables without risking damages to the insulation displacement connection.

With regard to Claim 8, Applicant's admitted prior art discloses the first and second portions (2) being defined as cutting walls which extend in general transverse relation to the axial direction. See Figs. 1-2.

With regard to Claim 9, Applicant's admitted prior art discloses a second upstanding side edge portion (5) extends on an opposite side forming opposed side edge portions (5), having parallel side faces (side of 2) extending along parallel vertical axes. See Figs. 1-2.

Art Unit: 2833

With regard to Claim 10, Applicant's admitted prior art discloses a plurality of opposed side edge portions (5) generally extending along axial lengths of the contact (1).

With regard to Claim 11, Applicant's admitted prior art discloses the contact (1) being generally rectangular in cross-section. See Figs. 1-2.

With regard to Claim 12, Applicant's admitted prior art discloses the at least one side edge portion (5) being positioned on at least end of the contact (1). See Figs. 1-2.

With regard to Claim 13, Applicant's admitted prior art discloses the at least one side edge portion (5) being at both ends of the contact (1). See Figs. 1-2.

With regard to Claim 14, Applicant's admitted prior art discloses the contact (1) being defined by at least two lugs (5) axially spaced apart, wherein the side edge portions (5) extend from the lugs (5). See Figs. 1-2.

Response to Arguments

5. Applicant's arguments filed February 10, 2003 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive. In response to Applicant's argument regarding Claim 7 that there is no suggestion to combine the references, the Examiner recognizes that references cannot be arbitrarily combined and that there must be some reason why one skilled in the art would be motivated to make the proposed combination of primary and secondary references. *In re Nomiya*, 184 USPQ 607 (CCPA 1975). However, there is no requirement that a motivation to make the modification be expressly articulated. The

Art Unit: 2833

test for combining references is what the combination of disclosures taken as a whole would suggest to one of ordinary skill in the art. *In re McLaughlin*, 170 USPQ 209 (CCPA 1971). References are evaluated by what they suggest to one versed in the art, rather than by their specific disclosures. *In re Bozek*, In this case, it is the Examiner's opinion that one with ordinary skill in the art would modify the contact of the Applicant's admitted prior art by including end faces which are axially staggered in an axial direction of the cable, the side faces being profiled for cutting through the outer insulation and the end faces trapping the conductive shielding therebetween as taught in Scholtholt to enable the contact to accept wider cables without risking damages to the insulation displacement connection. Despite the fact that the construction and the purpose of the inventions in Applicant's admitted prior art and Scholtholt are different, Applicant is reminded that is the concept of having end faces which are axially staggered in an axial direction of the cable, shown in Scholtholt, the one that would be combined with the contact of Applicant's admitted prior art and not the entire structure itself.

6. Applicant's arguments with respect to claims 1-6 have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

Conclusion

7. Applicant's amendment necessitated the new ground(s) of rejection presented in this Office action. Accordingly, **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL**. See MPEP § 706.07(a). Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

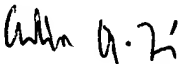
Art Unit: 2833

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the date of this final action.

8. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Edwin A. León whose telephone number is (703) 308-6253. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday - Friday 9:00-5:30.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Paula A. Bradley can be reached on (703) 308-2319. The fax phone numbers for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned are (703) 308-7722 for regular communications and (703) 308-7722 for After Final communications.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 308-0956.


Edwin A. Leon
AU 2833


THO D. TA
PRIMARY EXAMINER

EAL
April 14, 2003